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tween hot plates; and, finally, is subjected to the action of a strong press for a day or two. By this process the cork becomes more compact and even, and is then ready to be split. The instrument employed for this latter purpose is similar to that used for splitting skins, with the addition of a flat carriage, by which the cork is brought under the action of the knife.

No. II.

SHAWL OF ENGLISH CASHMEER WOOL.

The Large GOLD MEDAL was presented to C. T. TOWER, Esq., of Weald Hall, Essex, for a Shawl made of English Cashmeer Wool.

SEVERAL unsuccessful attempts have been made to introduce and to naturalise, in the British islands, the shawl-goat of Cashmeer, that variety of the common goat, or perhaps a peculiar species, the down of which is the material of the so called India shawls.

These fabrics, in fineness of fibre, lightness, and warmth, are unrivalled by those of any other material. It has, therefore, been considered, both in France and England, a very desirable object to introduce the shawl-goat, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the climate of Europe is suitable to it, and whether, under these circumstances, the fine down given it by nature as a pro-

tection against the winter cold of its own country, will be produced unimpaired in the fineness of its staple.

A few years ago some shawl-goats were introduced into Scotland; but the experiment did not succeed, as they died without leaving any progeny.

From France two agents were sent to Persia, under the patronage and protection of the Emperor Napoleon, for the purpose of making purchases of goats of the genuine Cashmeer breed, in the province of Caspahan. A considerable number of these animals was procured; and although many of them died in their long march to the coast of the Euxine, and in their passage thence by sea to Perpignan, yet a certain number survived, and were brought to Paris by M. Terneau, in the year 1823.

Mr. Tower, happening at that time to be in Paris, purchased four of them, two males and two females, and succeeded in conveying them safely to his residence in Essex.

The soil of the park at Weald Hall, where they have been kept ever since, is moist, and the situation is much exposed. The animals have, nevertheless, continued in health, and have multiplied rapidly; so that his present flock consists of twenty-seven, including the four original ones. Of these latter, a polled female, which was old when purchased by him, has every year produced at least one kid, and has twice had twins. Those individuals of which the horns cross, are in Persia esteemed the best; and one of Mr. Tower's last year kids has this peculiarity. They shew no impatience of cold, and are very healthy, requiring only the occasional shelter of a shed in very rough weather. In spring, summer, and autumn, they graze like sheep, and during winter have been fed with

hay and refuse vegetables from the garden ; but their favourite food is the gorse (*Ulex Europæus*), which they devour eagerly, without being annoyed by its prickles. They damage young plantations, but not more than other goats or deer will do. They breed very early ; three of Mr. Tower's goats this year produced kids before they were themselves a twelvemonth old.

A few produce brown down ; but that of by far the greater proportion of the goats is white ; and this latter is more valuable than the other.

The coat is a mixture of long coarse hair and of short fine down : this latter begins to be loose early in April, and is collected easily and expeditiously by combing the animals two or three times with such a comb as is used for dressing horses' manes. A good deal of the long hair comes off at the same time, but the manufacturer has found no difficulty in separating it.* The produce of a male is about four ounces, and of a female about two ounces. Two pounds of down, as it comes off the goat's back, may be estimated to make one shawl fifty-four inches square. It will therefore require ten goats, male and female, to furnish materials for one shawl.

Mr. Tower has this year had three shawls made of his down, one of which was examined by the committee of manufactures. The yarn was spun by Messrs. Pease, of Darlington, and was woven by Messrs. Miller and Sons, of Paisley. Mr. Tower's shawl was compared with

* A considerable quantity of rough Cashmeer wool was imported from India a few years ago, and baffled the attempts of the manufacturers to disentangle the down from the hair ; probably in consequence of the down having become felted in conveying it from Cashmeer and shipping it from Calcutta.

one made in Scotland of French shawl-goat wool, to which it was evidently far superior. It was also compared with a French shawl of M. Terneau's own make, and was considered by very competent judges to be superior to this also.